

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 15, 16 and 17 are amended and claims 18-22 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to. The specification is amended to correctly recite "employ" responsive to the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 15 is objected to. Claim 15 is amended to correctly recite "according" responsive to the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 10, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,064,847 to Iwamatsu et al. (Iwamatsu); and claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Iwamatsu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,495,322 to Wada et al. (Wada) and U.S. Patent No. 5,809,386 to Iwata. The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Iwamatsu, Wada and Iwata, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a removing member that removes a nonmagnetic single-component developer remaining on a peripheral surface of the developer-carrying member that was not supplied to the image-carrying member, and a removing device that removes the charged nonmagnetic single-component developer from the removing member, the removing device being arranged to contact the removing member, as recited in amended independent claims 9 and 17.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Iwamatsu, alone or in combination with Wada and Iwata, fails to disclose all the features of claims 9 and 17, as well as all the features of claims 10-15, 17 and 19, which depend from claim 9. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwamatsu in view of Wada; and claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwamatsu, in view of Wada and Iwata. The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Iwamatsu, Wada and Iwata, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a removing member that removes a nonmagnetic single-component developer remaining on a peripheral surface of the developer-carrying member that was not supplied to the image-carrying member, and a removing device that removes the charged magnetic single-component developer from the removing member, the removing device being arranged to contact the removing member, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Iwamatsu, alone or in combination with Wada and Iwata, fails to disclose all the features of claims 1 and 16, as well as all the features of claims 2-8, 18 and 20 which respectively depend from claims 1 and 16. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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